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Liminal spaces and counternarratives: reflections on A Higher Education Studies Arts Archive (invited talk)

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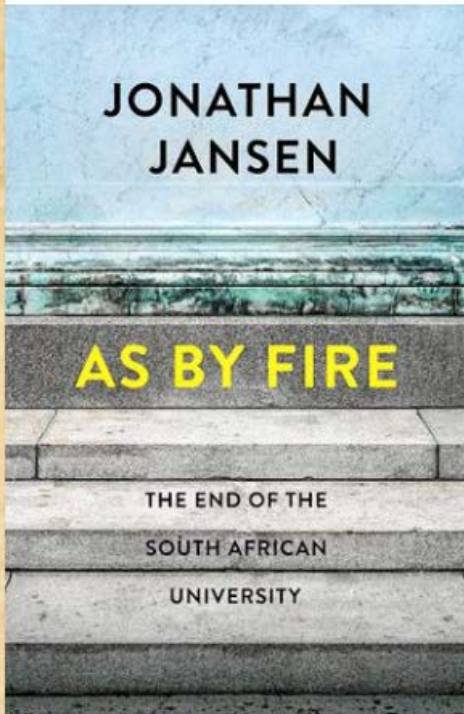
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(from *review*)

"a conversation about the work
universities must do" (from *review*)

"an irresponsible thesis" (another
review)



Serhat Tanyolacar *Art work exhibited at
University of Iowa* (2014)
(mixed media installation)

Interesting case of provocative artwork
on racism and university response and
ensuing debate.



Liminal Spaces and Counter-narratives: Reflecting on 'A Higher Education Arts Archive'

Dr Dina Zoe Belluigi, Queens University Belfast
@DZBelluigi

Virtual Presentation, Liverpool Hope University
23 October 2018

Witness
by UCU - University and College Union
youtube

Chris Boeskool *When You're
Accustomed to Privilege, Equality Feels
Like Oppression*
(blog, ?)

"a great piece for use for one of the
common arguments/comments I
often hear" (*Karol Viekér*, Equality
and Diversity Manager, *Sweden*)

"The first rule of White Club is you
do not talk about White Club..."
(Caption to image below)



Karim Hirji (ed) *Cheche. Reminiscences
of a Radical Magazine*
(Memoires, Tanzania)



padlet

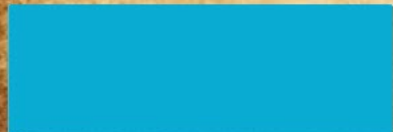
👤 REMAKE 🔄 SHARE ⚙️ ... 🌐

👤 Dina +1 • 1mo

A Higher Education Studies Arts Archive



Formal courses in Higher Education Studies aim to engage those working within and researching the context of higher education with scholarship. This Archive provides an additional alternative space to explore the complexities of lived experience(s) in higher education, and extend the imaginative, expressive, empathetic and projective possibilities of such engagement. Thus the 'texts' here include literature (popular fiction, non-fiction, novels, atefacts and short stories etc), film, TV series, music, plays and visual art. The aim is for this to have a borderless focus. You are invited to peruse and to contribute to this archive - either by suggesting titles or events to me (Dina Belluigi via dinabelluigi@gmail.com) or by sending your own brief take on those texts you've engaged with. Any language or format. Let me know how you'd like me to cite you, and if you'd me to hyperlink to you directly or to contribute anonymously. Feedback and suggestions are very much welcome! (Note that the texts included herein are diverse, and are not representative of my own opinion nor that of the institutions with which I am affiliated. Many are counter-narratives, and so may be provocative or challenging of prevalent norms). The site serves as a link to where the text can be accessed, not a repository, and as such is about facilitating access, not claiming author/ownership. If you'd like to embed this site within your own, just email or see the very last item on the page.



Krupabai Satthianadhan **Saguna: The First Autobiographical Novel in English by an Indian Woman** (Novel)

"Historically comparable across various colonies... retain[ing] a legacy in today's world" (**Daniel S. Roberts**, Queen's University Belfast)



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie **Purple Hibiscus** (Fiction; novel)

"The university becomes a microcosm of the country" - statement made on p. 224 by the character Obiora, whose mother is a senior lecturer at a Nigerian university.

"I found the overlapping spaces of social formation and critical citizenry in the novel compelling - in the fringes of journalism, academia, belief systems, and the home" - Dina Belluigi.

Elif Shafak **Three Daughters of Eve** (Novel, fiction, UK/Turkey)

The centre of the story rests on Peri's relationship with the teacher at Oxford who pushes his students into deeper and deeper inquiries into the nature of God. Shafak seems to intend this as a vital erotic and intellectual awakening, but Azur comes across as arrogant and even

Forensic Architecture 'AYOTZINAPAUna cartografía de la violencia' (**Interactive platform**)

A visualisation of independent enquiries into the disappearance of 43 students in Mexico in 2014.

"We can't say we found the students — we haven't gotten that far, but we are able to show what that night was about." Theo Resnikoff in a **review**



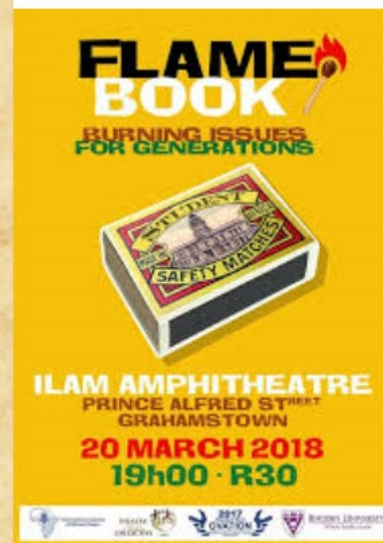
Plataforma Ayotzinapa
Forensic Architecture desarrolló una plataform...
plataforma-ayotzinapa

UCU Witness (Documentary)

Initiated by University College Union Black Members' Standing Committee

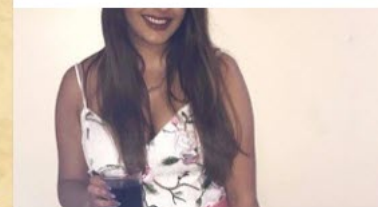
Xolisa Ngubelanga 'FlameBook' Director Simphiwe Kaya (Theatre Production)

"A detained student leader uses fire to connect the trial of FeesMustFall with that of his father during the state of emergency" Author cited in **review**



Jonathan Jansen **As by Fire**

@sarishagoodman 'How widespread is racism at British universities? A thread' (Twitter thread)



sarisha on Twitter
How widespread is racism at British universitie...
twitter

Eric Anthony Grollman 'Conditionally Accepted: a space for scholars on the margins of academia' (Website; Blogs)

"Today, academia — like every social institution — is structured hierarchically, producing numerous professional and personal obstacles for academics from marginalized backgrounds. Scholars who are women, of color, lesbian, trans*, bisexual, gay, queer, disabled, working-class or poor, immigrants, fat, religious and non-religious

Dubravka Ugresić 'The Ministry of Pain' (Novel)

the character "finds herself teaching the languages and literature of her "former Yugoslavia" at a university in Amsterdam" (from **review**)



Donella & Kelly 'Starting School at the University that enslaved her ancestors'

1. Access the site on your devices



2. Scroll through the site.

...tual awakening, but Azur
s across as arrogant and even
ed about his own brilliance, so
wholehearted adoration for
ails to convince. (review)
y a reader intrigued by Shafak's
on diverse thought



himels The Campus Boy
(Ethiopia)
paths of a third world boy. It
show from his campus life, on
ving his future dreams and
with daily evils"



Initiated by University College Union
Black Members' Standing Committee,
'witness' chronicles the lived experiences
of UCU black members in post-16
education in the UK.

See [related report](#).



Chris Boeskool [When You're
Accustomed to Privilege, Equality Feels
Like Oppression](#)
(blog, ?)

"a great piece for use for one of the
common arguments/comments I
often hear" ([Karol Viek](#), Equality
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"The first rule of White Club is you
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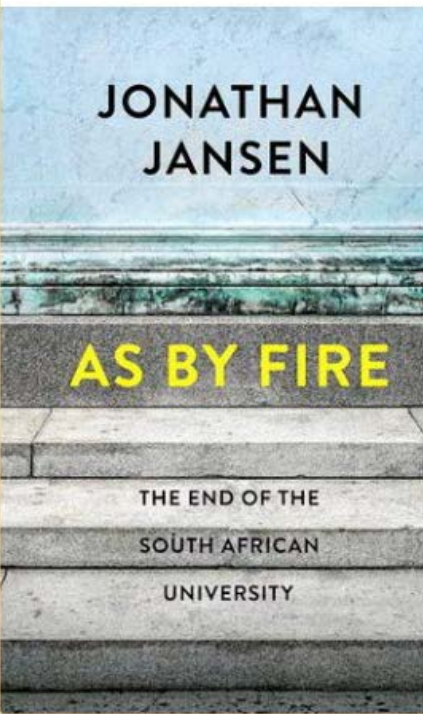


Jonathan Jansen. [As by Fire](#)
(Non-fiction, RSA)

"an unconstrained account of the
2015 - 2016 crisis which erupted at
universities across South Africa"
(from [review](#))

"a conversation about the work
universities must do" (from [review](#))

"an irresponsible thesis" (another
[review](#))



Alice Dreger [Galileo's Middle Finger:
Heretics, Activists, and the Search for
Justice in Science](#)
(Non-fiction; US)

What stands out? Why?

- What does it say about the text?
- What does it say about you?
- What does it say about how I've represented it?

'Operative criticism' (Belluigi 2015)



Mhlongo **Dog Eat Dog**
(sculpture; novel; South Africa)

The book narrated to me the feeling of the excitement of the 27th April 1994 very well. At that time I was not in the age to vote, was young and ignorant then to notice what it meant for the first time voters young and old to vote for the first time, the hopes, the dreams, the promises of what democracy will bring." (**Nomfundo Siqwede**, Rhodes Univ South Africa)

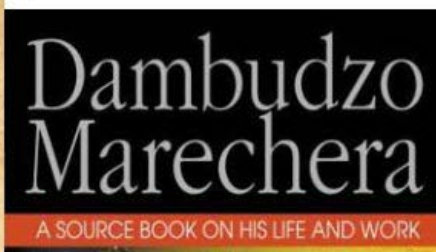
The chapters of this book operate as a series of vignettes of the life of a very young opportunistic guy who gets swept about by the undercurrents around him. I remembered what it was so full of excitement, but also to be so aware of how things work in



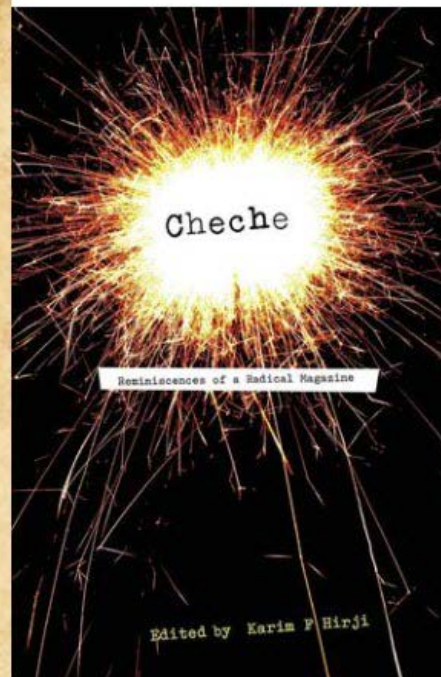
Dambudzo Marechera **The House of Hunger**
(fiction; short stories; Zimbabwe)

"I thought it was a very stark and vivid account of skeletons that black people seem to have normalized as part of their cultural experiences. It left me very unsettled and wondering about how everyone else manages their lives without such a platform to release their frustrations. A riveting read, not for the faint at heart" (**Mutsa Chinyamakobvu**, Statistician, South Africa).

"The university is a backdrop against which questions are asked about education and ideology and alienation" (Stacy Hardy, Rhodes Univ, South Africa).



"In his description Hirji captures the spirit and enthusiasm of these activist students and provides a rich picture of UDSM's vibrant intellectual atmosphere in the late 1960s and early 1970s" (*excerpt of review by Amy Jamison*).



Cristian Heredia **The Struggles and Victories of Latinas in Higher Education**
(photographic project, US)

An environmental portrait series that documents the struggle and victories of one such group of Latina women. By exploring their experiences, we get a glimpse of how they reconcile life with academic success in institutions that may not necessarily represent them

What stands out? Why?

- Does the site/ device/ introductory description hamper or add to the engagement?
- Could I better achieve my intentionality another way?

‘Operative criticism’ (Belluigi 2015)

Abstract

In this discussion, I'll reflect on my intentionality for establishing this online space, and how it has come to be received and to operate in different spaces. It is an unfunded online space, which places non-'academic' lived experience centre stage, by drawing insights from international music, visual arts, plays, books, memoirs, blogs and films across various contexts, perspectives and times, which touch on the messiness of life in higher education.

We'll explore how these creative artefacts offer us rich counter-narratives to challenge the taken-for-granted myths of educational systems, in nuanced and provocative ways. Whether the university features as backdrop, a protagonist or a space of possibility, these artefacts provide openings for us to journey, alongside students and staff, as they tell us their stories of negotiating the demands and diversity of personal and professional relationships, while they meander through the unexpected mazes of curiosity and learning.

aging... er, SW...
al h... al, pierce
persona... items
rds, vouchers, sav... gs sta... sm...
credit, Cinda's handbag... t w...
that were... ed...
If



Ve... he... swim...

Intentionality > reception >
operates

reflection

Principles:

Alternative space

Counter-narratives

Development of the capacity for critical
agency

OER

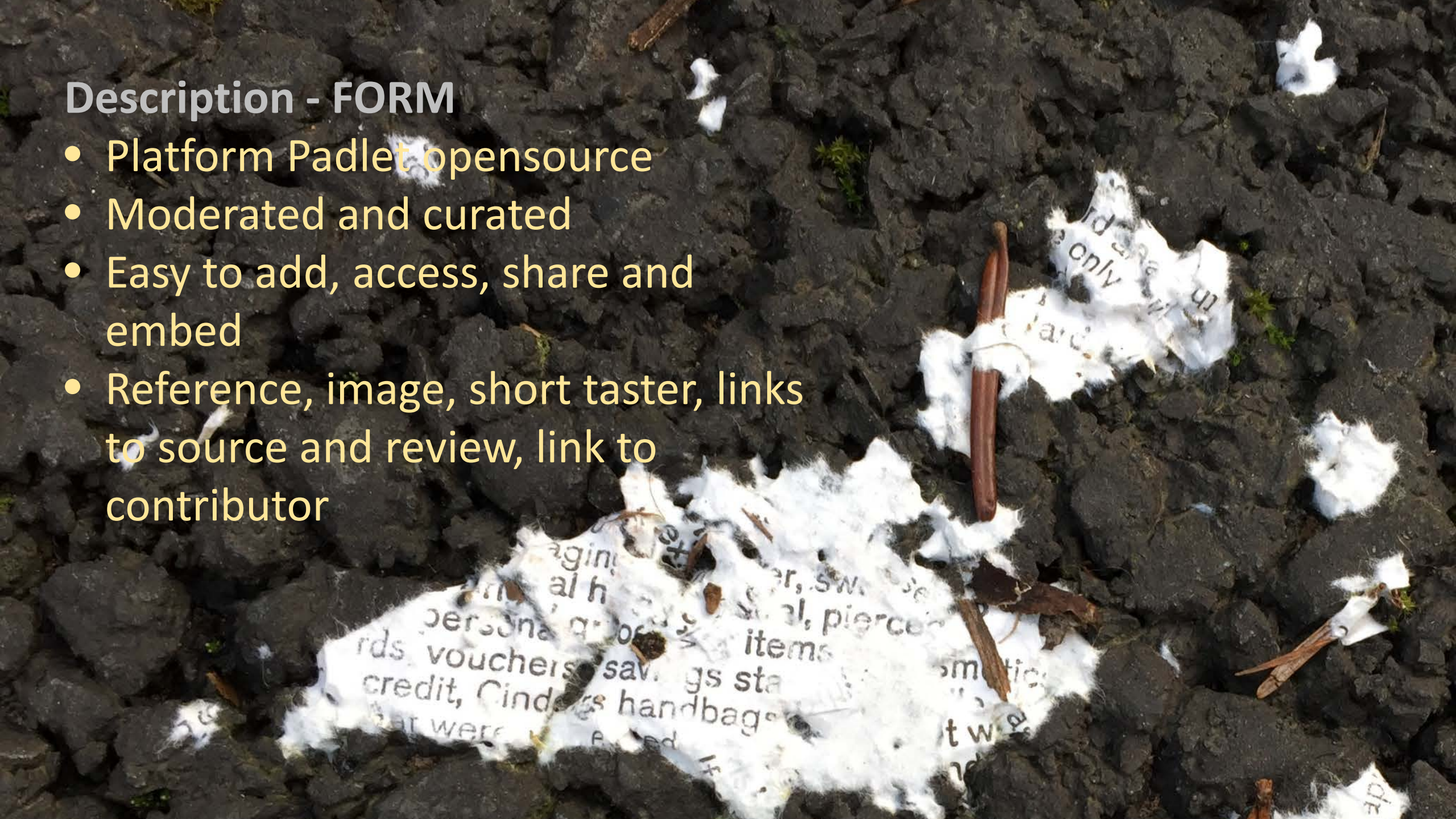
Description - CONTENT

- Addition to dispassionate engagement
- Figurative/ expressive/ provocative
- Performance and creative arts; literature; digital media; music et cetera
- Different contexts:
 - Across geographics (geopolitics)
 - Across divides
 - Across time periods
 - Across roles in HE
 - Borderlands of HE



Description - FORM

- Platform Padlet opensource
- Moderated and curated
- Easy to add, access, share and embed
- Reference, image, short taster, links to source and review, link to contributor


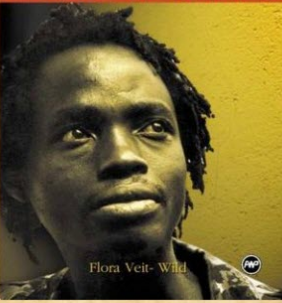


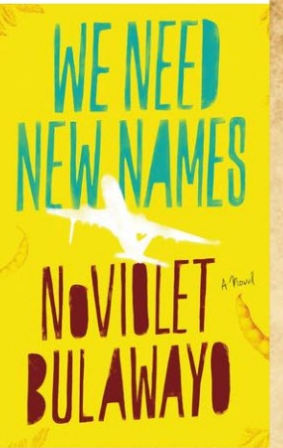
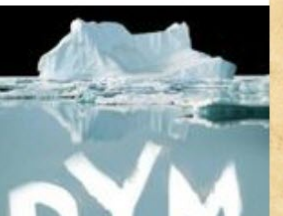



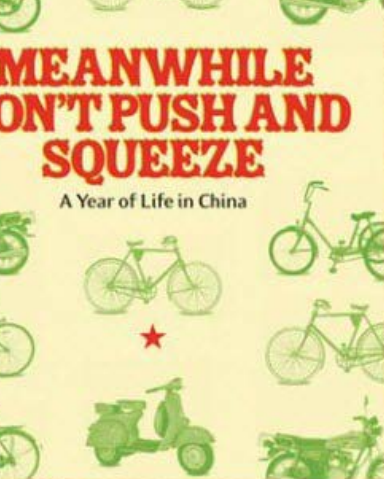


AUTHORSHIP

- Co-produced but curated
- Links to source material
- Contributor's motivation for recommendation = interpretation/ reader response
- Provocative reviews
- Re-use

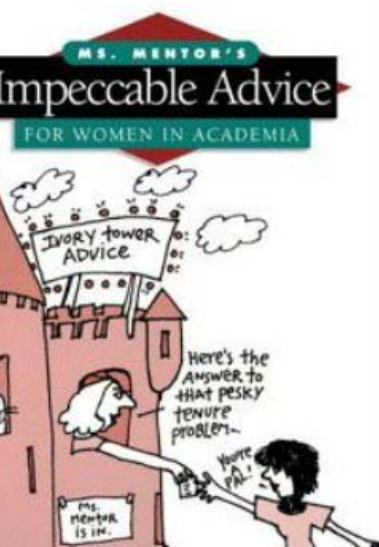
Problematics?

<p>excitement, but also to be so unaware of how things work in adulthood and in HE" (<i>Dina Belluigi, Queen's Univ Northern Ireland</i>).</p>  <p>Robert Berold <i>Meanwhile Don't Push and Squeeze – a year of life in China</i> (memoir, RSA)</p> <p>"Early on in the book, Berold writes of his students – he was employed as a "foreign expert" at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou to teach English to undergraduates – that "they all seem to have this positive outlook on life ... they are proud of being Chinese and look forward to a career and family ... I find myself asking where the shadow stuff is, the angst and scepticism I expect in</p>	<p>A SOURCE BOOK ON HIS LIFE AND WORK</p>  <p>Stuart Hall <i>Familiar Stranger: A Life Between Two Islands</i> (Memoire, UK)</p> <p>"Sometimes I feel myself to have been the last colonial" (Hall).</p> <p>"He writes of his determination not to be outwardly troubled by a perception of him as "exotic" and "other", and not to be slighted by the inquiry "and when are you going home?" from tutors thinking ahead to the end of his college life" (Excerpt from <i>review</i> by Colin Grant).</p> <p>See here for a <i>discussion</i> about this text on Thu 22nd June, 18:30 & more.</p> <p>See here for a <i>video</i> of his memorial in 2014.</p>	<p>academic success in institutions that may not necessarily represent them. Ultimately, this series aims to serve as a mirror for them. And hopefully, holds up a mirror for those who have yet to see themselves in these institutions (website info).</p>  <p>Jake Nathane <i>Welcome to the Zoo</i> (Workshopped play: Grahamstown; 2016)</p> <p>Click for related article (1;2)</p> <p>The university campus to which this play responds was the scene of many anti-race protests in 2015/6.</p> <p>"fighting against ineffectual responses to rape and rape culture" (<i>excerpt</i> from review)</p>  <p>#RURReferenceList: Welcome to the Zoo The full performance of 'Welcome to the Zoo'... youtube</p>	<p>trincoll</p> <p>Send contributions/ feedback/ critiques</p> <p>via this <i>email address</i>*.</p> <p>You can do this anonymously, or to facilitate connections include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A few words indicating your personal experience of the text / motivation for suggesting it be added;2. Your name or how you'd like affiliation represented;3. A hyperlink to a social media and/or email account to encourage dialogue. <p>If you feel more comfortable, make your contribution anonymous.</p> <p>*Such moderation/ filter has unfortunately proved necessary. Contrary & divergent reader-responses are very much welcomed, but those which are framed offensively will not be displayed.</p> <p>Metalepsis in Black from African Noise Foundation</p> <p>(Documentary; RSA)</p> <p>Aryan Kaganof's movie about a conference on "#MustFall: Understanding the Moment" held at the university of Free State (UFS), South Africa. The event was collaboratively</p>	<p>Africa).</p>  <p>Mat Johnson <i>Pym</i></p> <p>"[uses the protagonists journey] to posit the history of race in the United States as a national disaster that overdetermines contemporary social dynamics" (<i>Excerpt</i> from academic paper)</p> 	<p>education systems in the world have influenced some very well known (and some not so well known) singers and songwriters." (excerpt from website).</p> <p>Find videos at Times Higher Education <i>#HElyrics</i> playlist.</p> <p>Contribute via <i>#HElyrics</i></p> <p>The image below is of The Pixies.</p> <p>"U Mass, is an expletive-ridden 3-minute song thought to be about college apathy, and making reference to the University of Massachusetts...</p> <p>The lyric:</p> <p>Oh kiss my ass oh let it rock, of the April birds and the May bee Oh baby University of Massachusetts, please And here's the last five It's educational, it's educational It's educational, it's educational It's educational (<i>Excerpt</i> from website)</p>  <p>More Brittan <i>Testament of Youth</i></p>
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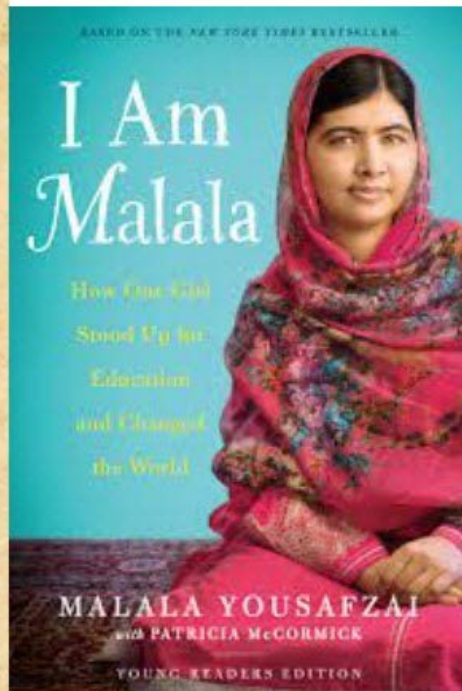


by Toth **Ms. Mentor's Impeccable Advice for Women in Academia**

think you can sum up the book as
form, charm everyone, lie, be a
scribe, do not react to harassment
discrimination, until you get tenure,
use tenure is the most important
there is" (**excerpt** from review).

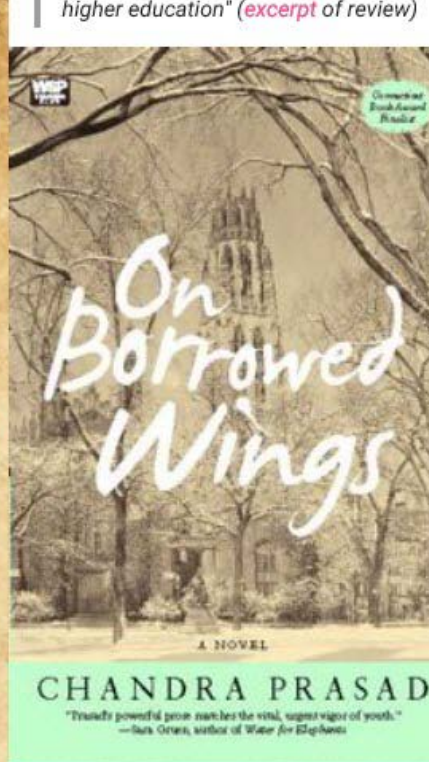


Malala Yousafzai **I am Malala**
(memoire novel and film)
Film by David Guggenheim **He Names Me Malala**
Implications for education at [this link](#)



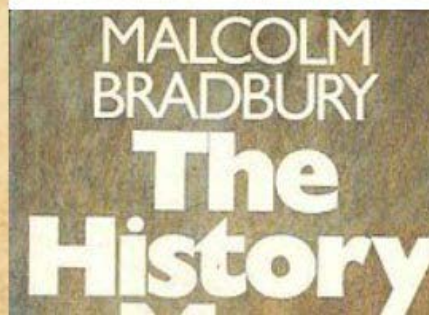
Jane Tompkins **Me and my shadow**
Memoire/ academic text; US)

"There are two voices inside me
answering... One is the voice of a
critic who wants to correct a
mistake in the essay's view of



Malcolm Bradbury **The history man**
(Novel; UK)

"the small world of the university is a
stage for the dramatisation and
examination of larger issues" (**excerpt** of
review)



Problematics or possibilities?

1. Strategic?
 - Data analytics - impact
2. Sustainability?
 - Platform dependent on me
3. Fund umbrella project?
4. Project to support the creations of counter-narratives?

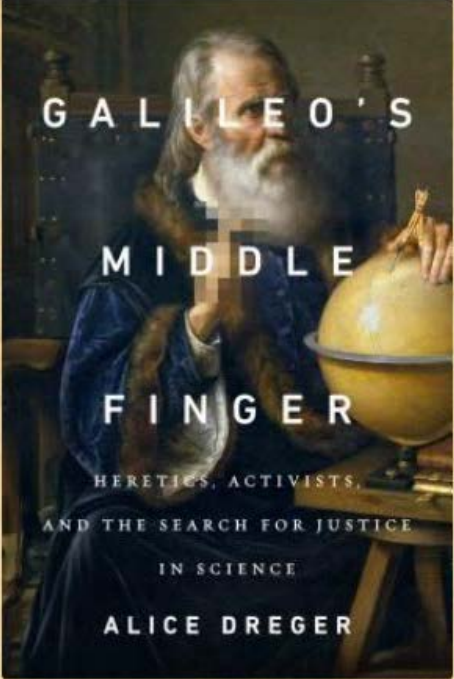
How you can contribute:

1. Email me at dinabelluigi@gmail.com
2. Reference info
3. Sound bite
4. Details - how you want to be referenced

How you can utilise it:

5. Embed in sites
6. Add to reference list
7. ...

seeking in today's America, where both the free press and free scholarly inquiry struggle under dire economic and political threats." (Excerpt from review)



Jade Hoyer's "study" Reflects on Educational Privilege (art exhibition, US)




Jade Hoyer's "study" Reflects on Educational P...
ERIN GANNON '19 A&E EDITOR The musings o...
trincoll

Russell Leo Bruns, *Candyland*.
(Photographic stills and videos related directly to RU)

"South African society is not exclusively run by racist individuals, but by those oblivious to the skewed nature of the system they operate in. In this manner, *Candyland* asks us an important question: does ignorance abrogate culpability?" (Sally Ann Stenning, *British Journal of Photography*, 2016)

"... informed by the online dialogue of the Rhodes University Facebook network" (excerpt from the artist's thesis).

View The STATUS-series (1;2;3;4)



Chris Parr 14 universities that made the world of pop music (Music; videos)

"Academia and popular music may not seem the most obvious bedfellows, but as this list proves, some of the most prestigious higher education systems in the world..."

TRANSGENDER IN COLLEGE
TRANSIDENTITY STUDENTS' STRATEGIES FOR NAVIGATING CAMPUS LIFE AND THE INSTITUTIONAL POLITICS OF INCLUSION
Z. NICOLA
FOREWORD BY KRISTEN A. JOHNSON
AFTERWORD BY STEPHEN JOHNSON

Thanks!

